

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2002, this Member unavoidably missed rollcall vote No. 423 (final passage of H.J. Res. 111, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2003). Had this Member been present, he would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
WILLIAM MCSHANE**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William McShane, on the occasion of his retirement, from the Suffolk County Board of elections.

For the past 30 years, Mr. McShane has tirelessly devoted himself to public service. He has most recently served as the campaign finance director of the Suffolk County Board of Elections. Previously, Mr. McShane worked for a member of the legislature before running for office himself.

Mr. McShane is a veteran of the Army Air Force who has served both his country and the state of New York well. As a Bronx native, the former owner of a small business in Nassau County and a longtime member of the Deer Park Community, Mr. McShane embodies the true spirit of a New Yorker.

His professional achievements are more than matched by his personal success. His lovely wife, Anne, is a retired school teacher. Together, they raised 5 beautiful children and have been blessed with six amazing grandchildren.

I am proud to recognize such an accomplished individual and commend Mr. McShane for his dedication and service to his community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in wishing William McShane many years of success as he celebrates his well deserved retirement.

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT CONGRESS
SHOULD COMPLETE ACTION ON
H.R. 4019, PERMANENT MAR-
RIAGE PENALTY RELIEF ACT OF
2002

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep disappointment that the House Leadership has turned a deaf ear to the concerns that preoccupy Americans. Among the chief concerns voiced by my constituents, in addition to the high cost of prescription drugs and the need to protect their retirement savings, is the need to extend temporary federal unemployment assistance. Over 60 percent of workers receiving extended benefits are cur-

rently exhausting all of their Federal benefits before finding work. By the end of August, 135,000 New Yorkers depleted their unemployment benefits and without timely action by this Congress—this number is certain to rise.

New York, in particular, is struggling with an unemployment crisis that rates among the severest in the country. Over 550,000 New Yorkers are out of work today. Mr. Speaker, in Western New York, the unemployment situation is particularly terrible as evidenced by the 5.1 percent unemployment rate in Rochester and 5.5 percent in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area. Mr. Speaker, certainly Rochesterians, as well as residents throughout Western New York, are acutely sensitive to their vulnerability to economic despair, triggered by the loss of a good job.

Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the current recession, long-term unemployment has increased faster than any part of the past 5 recession. In fact, the percentage increase in workers that exhausted regular 13 weeks of benefits has risen 121 percent between 2000 and 2002. Mr. Speaker, if our economy is in recovery, it is certainly a "jobless one." Companies did not add workers in September.

Mr. Speaker, the debate today should be over how to respond to the needs of the 1.5 million jobless Americans who have already exhausted their Federal unemployment benefits, and to hundreds of thousands of other workers who will exhaust their benefits in the coming months. My colleague, Mr. RANGEL, introduced legislation, H.R. 5491, that would extend temporary federal unemployment assistance for an additional six months, through June 30, 2003. This measure would ensure that workers in every State are eligible for 26 weeks of extended unemployment benefits. In States with high unemployment, like New York, workers would receive an additional 7 weeks of benefits. Inaction by this Congress risks the economic security of some 3 million workers and their families in the next five months.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the Congress listen to the needs of growing numbers of Americans undergoing real economic hardship and act to extend temporary unemployment assistance.

MICHAEL MURRY HONORED AS 2002
FRANCISCAN HOPE AWARD RE-
CIPIENT**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker. On Sunday, October 13, 2002, Milwaukee businessman, philanthropist and my friend, Michael J. Murry, will be honored as this year's Franciscan Hope Award Honoree at St. Josaphat Basilica's annual Loaves and Fishes Gala.

Similar to the namesake of the Franciscan order, St. Francis of Assisi, Mike was also born the son of a prominent entrepreneur. Growing up in the shadows of the Basilica, he was first introduced to the world of banking through his father, a former president of Lincoln State Bank.

After attending college and serving his country in the Air Force, Mike returned to Milwaukee. Through his diligent hard work and

visionary expectations for his father's bank, Lincoln State Bank thrived and expanded from Lincoln Village, the Basilica's neighborhood, to branch into the rest of the state of Wisconsin under Mike's presidency.

Just as St. Francis returned to his hometown to perform charity among the sick and through restoring churches, Mike has also put his Catholic values into action by serving on various healthcare boards of directors and the voluntary organization responsible for the beautiful restoration of the Basilica of St. Josaphat. The same enthusiasm and skill he has shown in the business community has benefited the philanthropic community and the Milwaukee area as a whole.

The patron saint of ecologists, St. Francis of Assisi was often depicted outdoors surrounded by wildlife. During time away from the office, Mike, an avid outdoorsman, can often be found at his lake home in Hayward, Wisconsin, where he has shared his passions for hiking, fishing and outdoor pursuits with his wife Jan and children Michelle and Joe.

It has been documented that thousands "were drawn to [St. Francis of Assisi's] sincerity, piety, and joy." As the 2002 Honoree of the Franciscan Hope Award, Michael Murry has proven himself an embodiment of St. Francis's characteristics and deserving recipient of this great honor.

Congratulations, Mike!

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE EAST OR-
ANGE CAMPUS OF THE DEPART-
MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of East Orange Campus of the Department of Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care System.

The East Orange Campus has served those who have served us all. For more than 50 years now, veterans from throughout New Jersey have received quality medical, surgical, and psychiatric care at the East Orange Campus.

This institution provides more than just care for our veterans, however; as a leading teaching and research institution, the East Orange Campus has helped train New Jersey doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers while conducting pioneering work in areas such as infectious disease, cardiovascular disease, and gulf war related illnesses.

I believe we have a responsibility to care for the brave men and women who served this nation, helping to win in war and preserve the peace. Providing for their healthcare is the least we can do to honor their sacrifice. In this way, the East Orange Campus has delivered on that responsibility, that promise, for more than 50 years.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to celebrate the East Orange Campus. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50 years of service and care delivered by the East Orange Campus.